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Report of the eighth session

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS

Paris, France, 12-20 September 1974

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ROME, 1974

FAO/ICES/ICNAF/ICCAT/ICSEAF

Report of the Eighth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics

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Rome, December 1974

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the Report of the Eighth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP) held at OECD Headquarters, Paris, France, 12-20 September 1974. A draft version of this report was issued in September 1974 for distribution at the 62nd Statutory Meeting of ICES, Copenhagen, October 1974.

Until the end of 1968 the CWP was known as the "Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area". The change of name was authorized by decisions taken during 1968 by the then member bodies (ICES, ICNAF, FAO).

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1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(Agenda Item 1)

1.1 Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach opened the Eighth Session of the CWP in his capacity as Secretary and thanked OECD in the person of Mr. P. Adam, Chief of Fisheries Division, for providing facilities for the Session. He then introduced Mr. R. Thibaudau, Director of Marine Fisheries (General Secretariat of the Mercantile Marine) who welcomed the participants. Mr. Adam responded and added a word of welcome on behalf of his Organisation.

1.2 Mr. Gertenbach subsequently welcomed ICSEAF as a new agency participating in the activities of the CWP and finally invited nominations for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. J.A. Pope (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman for the Eighth Session and Mr. R.A. Hall (U.S.A.) as Vice-Chairman.

1.3 The draft agenda and schedule of work were reviewed and adopted and the list of documents established.

1.4 Rapporteurs were appointed as follows:

Agenda item:

1	Mr. L. Butler	5.2	Mr. V. Hodder
2.1	Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach	5.3	Mr. L. Butler
2.2	Mr. V. Hodder	6.1-6.6	Mr. P. Adam
2.3	Mr. D. de G. Griffith	6.7	Dr. E. Heyerdahl
2.4	Dr. P.M. Miyake	6.8	Mr. Sv. Horsted
2.5	Mr. B. Draganik	7-8	Mr. D. Hagborg
2.6-4	Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach	9	Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach
5.1	Mr. L. Butler	10-11	Mr. L. Butler

1.5 The Eighth Session met on Thursday to Saturday (12th-14th September) and on Monday to Friday (16th to 20th September). Mr. Pope chaired the first three days of the Session and also Thursday, 19th, Mr. Hall the remaining four days.

1.6 The Address of Welcome, Agenda and Lists of Documents and Participants are presented in Appendices 1 to 4.

2. AGENCY PROGRAMMES AND PUBLICATIONS PRESENTING ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS

(Agenda Item 2)

2.1 The Statistical Programme and Publications of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

2.1.1 The Secretary of CWP drawing attention to Document CWP/8-2A reported that the main publications in his programme remained the two annually published volumes of the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, one volume of which was subtitled "Catches and Landings" and the other "Fishery Commodities". These two annual volumes were being supplemented by FAO Fisheries Circulars; no additional Bulletins of Fishery Statistics had been issued since the Seventh Session of the CWP.

2.1.2 The tables in Sections A and C of the "Catches and Landings" volumes of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics had remained unchanged and followed the same pattern as in earlier volumes, but beginning with Volume 34, significant changes had been made in Section B. Although these tables continued to present detailed breakdowns of annual fish catches by species, major fishing areas and by countries this three-tier presentation had been re-ordered. The present data arrangement, first introduced in Volume 34, in each table (devoted to an FAO "group of species") now started with the major fishing area, followed by a listing of all the relevant species for a particular area; finally each species total was broken down by country. It was noted that this new order facilitated the extraction and publication of supplementary publications (Bulletins and/or Circulars) to cover particular regions.

2.1.3 During the first half of 1974 twenty-one Fisheries Circulars were issued by FAO and each of these was devoted to one of the major inland and marine fishing areas for statistical purposes. Each circular contained tables extracted from Sections B and C of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, Volume 34; the "Circular" tables were built up from relevant parts in the various Yearbook tables.

2.1.4 The CWP noted that this series included Circulars for Areas 21, 27 and 47 for which ICNAF, ICES and ICSEAF already issued independently their own respective annual Bulletins. However, it was clear that this had not represented duplication in that the FAO series contained a slightly different presentation of the same basic data and also afforded a once for all opportunity to check thoroughly differences between the regional tables released by FAO and those produced by ICNAF, ICES and ICSEAF. FAO intended to continue to publish regional circulars for areas other than 21, 27 and 47 but did not expect to continue to do so for the three areas already covered by ICNAF, ICES and ICSEAF Bulletins. However, it was felt by the CWP that it was necessary and most useful that FAO had covered all areas in the very first issue of these new Circulars.

2.1.5 By the end of 1974 all data up to and including those for the calendar year 1973 relating to:

(i) nominal catches by major statistical area, by country, by species, by year,

(ii) nominal catches by statistical sub-area, by country, by gear type, by vessel size, by species, by year,

(iii) nominal catches and corresponding effort by statistical sub-area, by country, by gear-type, by vessel size, by species, by gear, by month,

will have been converted to machine processable form. In addition, procedures will have been developed for the similar treatment of current data on a regular basis with close liaison continuing to be maintained with the regional agencies regarding validity of catch figures. ICNAF and ICSEAF will be sending data to FAO by means of magnetic computer tape and/or cards and all regional agencies will provide FAO with changes in their coding systems as they occur. Beginning with the 1975 statistics, one important use of this basic file will be the production of the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics - Catch (Vol. 38). In addition, Vol. 36, containing 1974 statistics, may be prepared utilising automatic data processing techniques.

2.1.6 When this data base was firmly established it would be possible for catch and effort data to be retrievedby any criteria existing in the file, and management information requests of regional bodies and world fishery managers would be met with the promptness necessary for effective decision-making.

2.2 The Statistical Programme and Publications of ICNAF (International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries)

2.2.1 The Assistant Executive Secretary of ICNAF presented the report on ICNAF statistical activities during 1971/74 (CWP-8/2B). He reviewed the status of statistical publications with special reference to Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 20-22 for 1970/72, Sampling Yearbook, Vol. 15-17 for 1970/72, ICNAF List of Fishing Vessels for 1971, and ICNAF Redbook, Part I, for 1972/74 (containing the reports of meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics).

2.2.2 Recent developments in the management of more than 50 fish stocks in the ICNAF Area had led to the requirement for the early annual submission of monthly catch data for assessment purposes. Without interfering with the established STATLANT Programme and deadlines for the submission of STATLANT data, ICNAF required Member countries to report preliminary monthly statistics for regulated species well in advance of ICNAF assessment meetings. These data were used by assessment scientists in conjunction with monthly length and age sampling data for predicting potential yields.

2.2.3 With few exceptions (see 2.2.4), ICNAF did not now use statistics received on STATLANT 21A Forms for compiling the catch tables in the Statistical Bulletin. Nevertheless, the receipt of these data with a 15 April deadline was essential to provide the Commission at its Annual Meeting with an up-to-date inventory of catches by species and division for the preceding year, as the monthly data received earlier in the year for special assessment pertained only to selected species. The statistics derived from STATLANT 21A were computer-compiled for use at the Annual Meeting, and a revised version issued shortly thereafter represented the advance release of Northwest Atlantic Catch Statistics, pending the issuance of final statistics in the Statistical Bulletin several months later.

2.2.4 The Statistical Bulletin was now based almost entirely on statistics obtained from STATLANT 21B Forms. For nearly all countries fishing in the Northwest Atlantic, the catches from STATLANT 21B, when summed by species and division, were the same as those given on 21A. When 21B data were not available, 21A data were used; when 21B data differed significantly from those previous reported on 21A, the country was informed and the differences reconciled. Since most ICNAF countries had demonstrated their ability to report their statistics by species in the detail required for STATLANT 21B, the layout of this form (at least for the ICNAF Area) had to be such as to accommodate the requesting of the catch of each species that might be caught.

2.2.5 The presentation of tabular material in Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 22 for 1972, was reorganized along the general lines proposed at a meeting of the ad hoc Working Group of the CWP which met at Rome in January 1973 (Report of CWP ad hoc Working Group on the Contents of Regional Fisheries Statistical Bulletins (Rome, January 1973) ICNAF Summ. Doc. 73/11).

2.2.6 Recent ICNAF requirements for changes in STATLANT Forms were as follows:

(a) The provision for listing the catches of squids as (i) Illex spp., (ii) Loligo spp., and (iii) Squids (NS).

(b) The addition of Gadus ogac to the species list in view of catches having been reported for the first time in 1973.

(c) The provision for the reporting of the effort and catch for all species items taken in the newly established statistical area, Baffin Island Area /Statistical Area 0(zero)/ described in CWP-8/3D.

(d) Provision in the STATLANT B Form for the reporting of more detailed catch and effort data by twice-monthly periods and 30' x 30' unit areas in the southern part of the ICNAF Area, starting with 1975 data in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6.

(e) The design of a suitable STATLANT B form to facilitate the direct transcription of data from the form to punched cards or magnetic tape without the intermediate step of copying the data to coding sheets prior to punching.

2.2.7 The updating of national statistics was pursued by the Secretariat in its continuing effort to obtain as complete a historical record as possible of fish catches in the Northwest Atlantic. Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and Japan had provided more detailed data for 1967/71 than were previous available, and Canada, Poland and the USSR had provided species breakdowns for 1963/72 of some quite large catches of flounders previously reported as "Flounders (NS)".

2.2.8 The last ICNAF List of Fishing Vessels (for 1971) was issued in 1972. The list would continue to be published every 3 years with the 1974 list being issued early in 1975. Countries would in future be required to update their lists annually and the Secretariat would issue an annual supplement to the most recently published list in the years between each complete triennial list.

2.2.9 The ICNAF Sampling Yearbook, issued annually since 1956, would in future be replaced by the publication in the Redbook (Part I) of an annual index of available sampling data, which could be obtained from ICNAF upon request.

2.2.10 Emphasis on the early publication of the Statistical Bulletin and the need for the rapid retrieval of data for assessment purposes had led to the recent development of an ICNAF Data Base within the Secretariat. Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 20, 21 and 22, had been computer-compiled and the data stored on cards and magnetic tape for easy access and fast retrieval. Efforts were now being devoted to the transcription of data for the past 10 years to magnetic tape and, in order to incorporate revisions that had recently become available, it had been necessary to start from the basic STATLANT forms in order to reconstruct the Statistical Bulletin tables and store the data in a form most amenable for future work.

2.2.11 At the 1974 Annual Meeting of ICNAF the Commission approved the expansion of the Secretariat with the addition of six new positions, four of which would be associated directly with research and statistics activities: 1 biostatistician, 2 statistical clerks and 1 clerk-typist.

2.3 Statistical Programme, Publications and Automated Data Processing System of ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea)

2.3.1 The ICES Statistician reviewed the ICES statistical programme (CWP-8/2C) and drew attention to various developments which had taken place since the 7th Session of the CWP.

2.3.2 He described several changes in the layout of Bulletin Statistique which had been introduced in the issue containing 1972 catch data (Volume 57) in accordance with proposals agreed upon by the Statistics Committee at the 1973 Statutory Meeting of ICES.

2.3.3 The content of the Statistical News Letters series, in which four News Letters were published annually, had been standardised by the introduction of forms for reporting stock record data. Material on length and weight data by age was no longer published but was kept by the ICES Secretariat for circulation on request; an inventory of available information was published annually.

2.3.4 Under the terms of a Recommendation agreed at the Eleventh Meeting (1973) of NEAFC, member countries were requested, via the NEAFC Commissioners, to supply ICES with annual catch figures for fourteen named species by 1 February of the year following that to which the catch figures apply; this data collection scheme was for the benefit of the ICES Assessment Working Group meeting during the early part of the year and was not intended to replace any element of the STATLANT system. The ICES Statistician reported on how the attempt to implement this Recommendation had worked during its first year of operation, and drew attention to some improvements (mainly a finer area breakdown) which were to be introduced in the scheme.

2.3.5 Attention was drawn to the triennial reviews by ICES of the mixed fisheries in its area; the latest was carried out in 1974.

2.3.6 The CWP was informed of the existence of descriptions of national fishery statistical systems which were being compiled by the Council.

2.3.7 The ICES Working Group on the Eventual Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fisheries Statistics met for the third time in June 1974. A summary of progress made towards an ICES ADP system was given to the CWP Session, and attention was drawn to the Report of this meeting of the ICES Working Group which was presented to the Session as working paper CWP-8/8A.

2.4 Statistical Programme and Publications of ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna)

2.4.1 The Assistant Secretary of ICCAT presented the report on his agency's statistical activities (CWP-8/2D) and introduced the publication "Field Manual for Statistics and Sampling of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-like Fishes". The latter was published in 1972 and had been used widely and with success to explain ICCAT requirements for statistics and for solving the problem of species identification.

2.4.2 ICCAT generally requested statistics directly from (i) all its member countries and (ii) those non-members which fished significant amounts (at least 1,000 mt) of tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. It relied on the CWP Secretary to provide statistics of the tuna catches of non-member countries which caught insignificant amounts of the species of interest to the agency.

2.4.3 Special attention was drawn to the recent development by ICCAT of a project to make direct contact with the fishing industry at various ports. Since 1972, the ICCAT Secretariat had employed an expert to visit the important transshipment ports and by direct contact with the companies concerned, obtain catch and effort data. Since tuna fishing fleets were international, and the registration of a vessel does not necessarily coincide with nationality of the owners, the national responsibility for collecting statistics for such vessels tended to be unclear and their catches were often not included in the statistics reported by any National Office. This activity commenced by ICCAT had made it possible to achieve nearly complete statistical coverage of fleets whose catches were previously missed.

2.4.4 In 1972/73, ICCAT compiled flow-charts of national statistical systems used by every National Office with a view to studying the possibility of improving the timeliness of reporting. In 1974, a Field Practice programme was carried out in order to make national scientists and statisticians familiar with the ICCAT statistical system.

2.4.5 ICCAT Secretariat issued, for the important tuna species, a preliminary estimate of total annual catch, in March/April of the following year. Total tuna catch data by species, by country and by region (where possible) were published in the Statistical Bulletin. The Bulletin was published officially at the end of August in a loose-leaf format. In November and the following January some additional pages (or revised pages to replace some of those previously issued) were issued in order to up-date the published data. More detailed data such as catches by $1^{o} \times 1^{o}$ area, month and species, and biological data such as catches broken down by size, which were submitted by National Offices or collected directly by the Secretariat, are published twice a year, in March and October, in a compendium called Data Record.

2.5 Statistical Publications and ADP programme of ICSEAF (International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries

2.5.1 The Assistant Executive Secretary of ICSEAF thanked the Session for the invitation to join the CWP and expressed his appreciation for the help given by the Secretary of the CWP to create the statistical programme which had proved so useful for meeting ICSEAF statistical requirements.

2.5.2 Main features of ICSEAF activities in the field of collecting and compiling fishing statistics were summarised in CWP-8/2E. The Assistant Executive Secretary briefly presented the way by which the data on fishery statistics were collected from countries fishing in the Convention Area. He pointed out that the major sources of catch and fishing effort data obtained by the ICSEAF Secretariat from national offices were STATLANT forms 47A and 47B. Another, but minor, source of similar data was forms designed and compiled by national correspondents. The ICSEAF representative requested the Secretary of the CWP to assist him with continuing the task of making national offices yet more aware of the need to use the standardized forms and properly implement the instructions for their completion.

2.5.3 ICSEAF had designed an ADP system to satisfy its statistical needs. The received data were coded and transcribed onto a special form which was an essential document for punching the computer cards. The ICSEAF Statistical Bulletin comprised six tables which were printed by computer. Tables 1, 2 and 3 were compiled according to species, country, sub-area and division from data submitted on STATLANT form 47A. Tables 4 and 5 presented the catch data under such headings as species (or group of species), country, division and month. Statistics of catch and fishing effort appeared in Table 6.

2.5.4 ICSEAF intended to introduce some slight changes in STATLANT forms 47A and 47B, which would make them more suitable to ICSEAF's particular needs. The changes would involve printing the list of selected species items of commercial importance with code names in order to avoid any misunderstandings in fish nomenclature.

2.5.5 ICSEAF had also issued Sampling Bulletin No. 1, a description of which was briefly presented by the Assistant Executive Secretary. The ICSEAF Secretariat had designed special forms (BIOLDAT 1 and 2) by means of which length and age composition data on sampled fish were reported to the Secretariat where they were tabulated by species, country, division and in due course published. The possibility of using computer techniques for processing and compiling received biological data was being considered in preparation for a situation where the amount of received data would justify the introduction of such procedures.

2.6 The STATLANT Programme under the aegis of the CWP

2.6.1 The CWP noted that at the moment the various documents relating to the STATLANT Programme were included in the FAO Fisheries Circulars series which was a general series and dealt with a wide range of subjects thus leading to difficulties when trying to identify papers dealing with purely STATLANT matters. To facilitate the grouping of all documents dealing with inter-agency statistical matters the CWO recommends that FAO establish a new series reserved exclusively for documents connected with the inter-agency programme. These documents should be coded to facilitate references to (a) specific areas and (b) topics such as area descriptions, lists of species items, definitions of catch and effort concepts. It should thus be possible to easily compile, from properly indexed and cross-referenced documents series, compendia by (a) areas and (b) topics. The CWP Secretary would consult the Secretaries of the other agencies before finalizing this matter.

2.6.2 In view of the growth of the membership of CWP the Secretary was requested to investigate the introduction of a standardized format for the reporting of agency statistical activities to CWP.

3. CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF FISHING AREAS OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND ADJACENT SEAS

(Agenda Item 3)

3.1 A Compendium of Notes on Fishing Areas for Statistical Purposes

3.1.1 The CWP noted that in its report on the Seventh Session (Rome, Italy, 10 to 16 November 1971) it was recommended "that FAO combine in a single publication all the maps and area codes now used by the regional agencies in the Atlantic, and that this presentation should initially reflect only those codes referring to sub-areas, division and sub-divisions". In accordance with this recommendation the CWP Secretary presented Document CWP-8/3A and stressed that this compilation brought together most of the material on this topic hitherto available in various documents published by FAO, ICNAF, ICES, ICSEAF, ICCAT, etc.

3.1.2 The CWP noting that it might take some years before the details in a final form would be available for all statistical areas felt that it would be advisable to issue this document as a series of separate leaflets in a ring-binder. Each leaflet could be completed and up-dated separately and thus delays in finalizing the leaflets covering areas where breakdown decisions had still to be made by the appropriate regional fishery bodies would not hinder the prompt issue of leaflets for those regions where a well established situation existed.

3.1.3 The CWP requested that agencies check the details for their areas appearing in CWP-8/3A and send corrections to the CWP Secretary along with any available supplementary material to ensure the accuracy and completeness of issued leaflets. In this connection the CWP noted the supplementary information already supplied by ICNAF (CWP-8/3D), by ICES (CWP-8/3E and CWP-8/3F) by FAO (CWP-8/3B and CWP-8/3C).

3.1.4 Extending the recommendation of the Seventh Session referred to in Section 3.1.1 above, the CWP was of the view that the new leaflets should include for each area also any quadrangular systems based on the graticule; see Section 3.2 below. Some of these systems, it was noted, would not necessarily completely cover any given regional statistical area.

3.1.5 It was finally proposed that FAO should investigate the possibility of producing, as regularly up-dated computer-print outs, the essential descriptions of the sub-areas, divisions, sub-divisions and quadrangles within each statistical area. The results of any trials, if proved suitable, might be incorporated in the production of the above-mentioned regional leaflets.

3.2 Relationship between Components of a Statistical Sea Area

The CWP noted the difficulty of constructing a major area, sub-area or division with boundaries not lying along parallels or meridians from a quadrangular system based on the graticule and recommends that in establishing boundaries for major statistical areas, sub-areas, divisions, etc., the graticule system should be followed wherever possible.

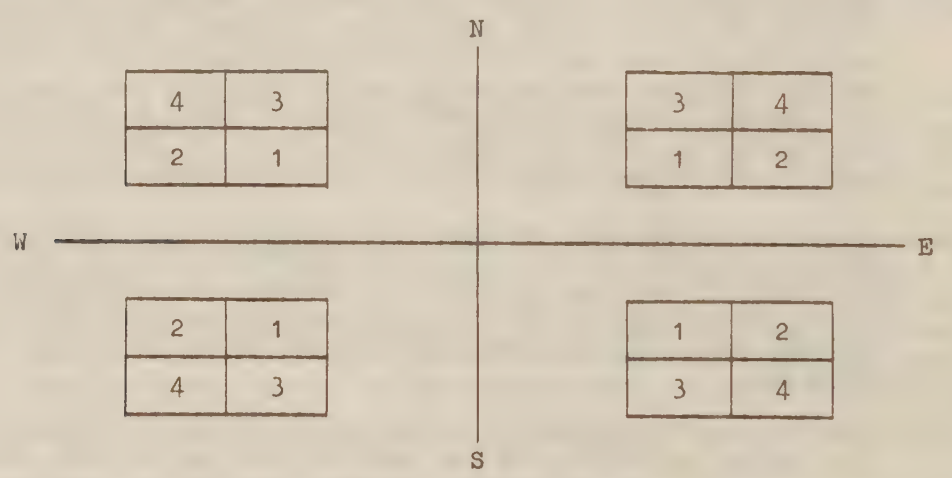
3.3 Quadrangular Systems Codification

3.3.1 The CWP considered the need for standardizing the codes for systems in the ICNAF and ICES Areas utilizing the latitude/longitude coding system recommended by the CWP at the Seventh Session and noted that ICCAT had adopted the recommended coding systems down to 1° quadrangles and had already used it in several of its statistical publications.

3.3.2 The CWP therefore recommends once more that the latitude/longitude codes, recommended at the Seventh Session, should be employed by all the regional agencies to identify, 10°, 5° and 1° quadrangles. Noting, however, that some agencies needed a further breakdown of the 1° area to smaller quadrangles of 30' latitude x 1° longitude, 30' x 30', and, possibly for some very specialized purposes, even 10' x 10' quadrangles, the CWP, with a view to simplifying the procedure described in the report of the Seventh Session, recommends the use of the following standard coding procedures for areas smaller than 1° quadrangles.

(1) Where the 1° quadrangle is divided into two halves, each 30' latitude x 60' longitude then the one nearest to the equator is numbered 1 and the other 2.

(2) Where the 1° quadrangle is divided into four quarters, each 30' x 30', the numbering depends on the quadrant in order to follow the latitude/longitude hierarchical structure, e.g.:



(3) The "0" will be used to indicate that it is not possible to show the data at a breakdown level below the 1° quadrangle.

The structure of a code for identifying the size and location of a unit quadrangle of less than $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ could therefore be presented as follows; see also Report of Seventh Session of CWP, p. 34.

A Size of unit quadrangle of less than $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$
B Quadrant
C Latitude identifying $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ quadrangle
D Longitude identifying $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ quadrangle
E Position of unit quadrangle of less than $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ within $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ quadrangle.

Note: Since ICCAT does not need small quadrangles, ICCAT has assigned to the size of quadrangle code the following meaning in the following two cases:

ICCAT: Code to Indicate Size of Quadrangle

Code	Size of quadrangle
1	5° lat. by 10° long.
2	10° lat. by 20° long.

4. CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF SPECIES ITEMS FOR THE WORLD IN GENERAL AND THE ATLANTIC IN PARTICULAR

(Agenda Item 4)

4.1 Lists of Species Items

4.1.1 The CWP Secretary presented CWP-8/4A which was distributed in two versions. The first version was a typed one based on the stubs of the tables in Section B of the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, Vol. 34. This was used to prepare a computer-print out version (CWP-8/4A Supplement) which in turn provided regionally oriented lists of species items (CWP-8/4B, 8/4C, 8/4D, 8/4E, 8/4F and 8/4G). The CWP welcomed the publication of the world-wide list in CWP-8/4A but agreed that this must be supplemented by regional statistical lists as in CWP-8/4B to 8/4F and recommends that such regional statistical lists should be published by FAO. It was added that the regional lists could be usefully supplemented by the production of Species Identification Sheets 1/.

4.1.2 The CWP, reviewing terminology currently employed, noted the need to distinguish between (a) species, genera and families appearing as statistical categories or items within a statistical list and (b) species, genera or families as taxae within taxonomic lists. Although it was considered that a term such as catch item could be justified when referring to statistical tabulations it was felt that such a term might discourage the trend towards a continuous improvement in the breakdown of catches by better identified species categories. The CWP therefore recommends that statistical categories in tabulations be called species items.

1/ Field Manual for Statistics and Sampling of Atlantic Tunas and Tuna-like Fishes, ICCAT, Madrid 1972.
FAO Species Identification Sheets for Fishery Purposes
Mediterranean and Black Sea Area (2 Vols.):FAO Rome 1973
Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific (4 Vols.):FAO Rome 1974

4.1.3 The CWP further recommends

(i) that the scientific names appearing in the FAO computer produced regional lists and on questionnaires and related source documents be clearly distinguished from the other names by the use of special characters;

(ii) that regional lists of species items prepared by FAO for circulation with STATLANT forms should conform as closely as possible to the requirements of regional agencies; however, countries providing a regional agency with data in greater detail than that implicit in the pertinent species item list should not be discouraged from continuing to do so;

(iii) that FAO investigate alternative output formats for regional lists utilizing as far as possible all relevant information on the species files in FAO such as English, French and Spanish common names, other common names, scientific names, species identification codes, regionally oriented groupings, ISSCAAP divisions and groups, regional species codes, etc.;

(iv) that FAO continue devoting effort towards the early completion of their list of English, French and Spanish common names.

4.2 Codification

The CWP agreed that the various regional bodies might need to introduce specific regional codification systems for species items to meet their particular needs. FAO on the other hand, having to develop a constantly expanding list of the species items which appeared in the FAO Yearbook catch tables (this might soon contain, for the world's inland and marine area as a whole, more than a thousand separate entries) needed a world-wide general codification system. In view of these differences amongst the coding systems used by FAO, ICNAF, ICES, ICSEAF, etc., it was necessary to have all the different codes deposited in the FAO computer system in species files. In view of this need the CWP recommends

(i) that FAO continue to develop dictionaries which will permit the translation of data from coding system to coding system;

(ii) that the different regional agencies keep FAO informed of any additions and revisions to their regional species items codes which should be reviewed by them annually or biennially.

4.3 Revision of ISSCAAP (FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants)

4.3.1 The Secretary of the CWP presented CWP-8/4J and indicated that computerization of FAO activities in the field of fishery statistics provided an excellent opportunity to revise and modify, if and where necessary, the "Divisions" and "Groups" of ISSCAAP. Document CWP-8/4J provided information on which to base possible rearrangements of the 700-odd species items presently constituting ISSCAAP and now appearing in the world and regional tables published in the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics.

4.3.2 The CWP, while agreeing that there were several instances where particular species items (e.g. capelin) might be transferred from their present ISSCAAP Groups, thought that changes should be kept to a minimum. It was recognized that the proposals made in the working document indicated the maximum change that could be made and represented a useful attempt to elicit comment; however, in implementing received suggestions for changes it would be necessary to adopt a conservative approach.

4.3.3 The CWP suggested that document CWP-8/4J, with additional material be circulated as widely as possible to ensure that a resulting revised classification would not have to be reviewed again for some time to come. It was particularly stressed that not only taxonomists but also economists and other fishery specialists should be consulted about possible changes in the Divisions and Groups of ISSCAAP.

5. COMPLETENESS OF CATCH STATISTICS; DISCARDS; CONVERSION FACTORS

(Agenda Item 5)

5.1 Completeness of catch statistics

5.1.1 The discussion which centred on documents CWP-8/5A and 8/8B led to the conclusion that there may be a case for revising the existing international statistical reporting system with a view to introducing special arrangements for the reporting of catches of sports fishermen and the separate identification of aquaculture production. It was thought that both these activities were becoming economically important but that confirmation was needed by obtaining descriptions of national fishing industries which should include separate reference to both aquaculture and sport-fishing.

5.1.2 In view of this the CWP recommends that

(i) the Secretary, CWP, in close collaboration with OECD and other agencies, undertakes a survey of the marine fisheries of countries fishing the Atlantic Ocean to obtain a simple description of each of the component activities of each national fishery along with the statistical treatment, or otherwise, of each activity in each national fishery statistical system; the relative importance of each of the component elements should be indicated for each country;

(ii) the results of the survey be presented by the Secretary, CWP, to the Ninth Session.

5.2 Discards

The Assistant Executive Secretary of ICNAF, introducing CWP-8/7E, reviewed the ICNAF procedure for obtaining statistics on discards (fish thrown overboard at sea). Following discussion on the problems associated with the collection of such statistics, there was general consensus that the need for a STATLANT Form was premature at this time. However, ICNAF was requested to report to the next CWP meeting on developments in this field.

5.3 Conversion factors

5.3.1 It was noted that the introduction of catch quotas for an increasing number of stocks emphasized the need for an up-dated and expanded version of FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics No. 25, Conversion Factors, North Atlantic Species which had been issued in 1970. Further, changes had taken place in the fisheries and it was, for example, particularly noted that the existing publication did not include a conversion factor for lump-fish roe. The CWP recommends that

(i) the CWP Secretariat undertake the issue of an up-dated and expanded version of Conversion Factors, North Atlantic Species by the end of 1975;

(ii) that FAO set up machinery for the regular collection of national conversion factors within the STATLANT System, the regular issue of supplements showing changes to the existing Conversion Factor Bulletin, and when necessary the issue of an up-dated Bulletin.

5.3.2 It was further noted that consideration should be given to the use of a computer to ensure the successful implementation of the recommendation.

6. STANDARD CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS FOR FISHING FLEET AND FISHING EFFORT STATISTICS

(Agenda Item 6)

6.1 Review of the Report on the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG)

Following the recommendation of the Seventh Session CWP (see Section 7.3 of Report), the gear classification for statistical purposes as set out in the document CWP-8/6A (pp. B1 to B10) had been studied by the interested regional agencies who felt that it was an acceptable framework; it was understood, however, that where necessary, some items could be more detailed.

6.2 Consideration of the utilization of ISSCFG for listing fishing gear in the notes and in the statistics of regional Atlantic fishery commissions, committees and councils

To facilitate reading statistical publications of the different bodies, it was felt necessary to agree upon a harmonized list of international abbreviations or character codes for the different gear types. Noting that ICCAT used BB for bait boats, SP for sport-fishing and that ICNAF used DV for dory vessels and added a letter to indicate side or stern trawling, the CWP recommends that the list presented at Appendix 5 be generally adopted in statistical publications.

6.3 Consideration of the possibility of showing catch (by principal species) for regions according to principal types of gear

It was noted that there were requests for general statistics of catches by main areas and gear utilized and that such detailed statistics were already published for some areas especially by ICES and ICNAF. Elsewhere the information was only partly available, if at all. The CWP welcomed the efforts at present being made in FAO to examine whether meaningful general tables of this type could be constructed. It also welcomed the cooperation with regional bodies, such as ICNAF, which proposed to compile summaries that could be readily used by FAO.

6.4 OECD Fleet Statistics

6.4.1 The OECD representative introducing CWP-8/6C presented the results of work on the compilation of a fleet register and tables presenting fleet statistics as recommended by the Seventh Session of CWP. The following points were made:

(a) While OECD was responsible for most of the practical work, the trial was conducted in full cooperation with FAO.

(b) The work was complete as regards the vessels above 1,000 GRT, but the data for the vessels of countries which were not OECD Members had not as yet been verified by the respective national authorities; they would now be so checked with the help of the FAO Secretariat.

(c) The gear classification so far used in this programme was somewhat different from that referred to in Section 6.1 above; this situation would be corrected.

(d) The vessel classification, which was the basic element in the system, was still provisional. The list presented in CWP-8/6C, pp. 31-32, was complete for large vessels, but still partial as regards the smaller vessels. The list presented in CWP-8/6B, p. 13, was a tentative general framwork which needed to be made more detailed.

(e) OECD intended to complete, by early 1975, a similar register for the boats between 500 and 1,000 GRT. The problem of going down to 100 GRT using a limited list of characteristics was also being studied by OECD. For this purpose the table presented in CWP-8/6B, p. 8, could only be considered as provisional.

(f) A pilot trial to update the register as at 1 January 1975, would be launched by OECD at the end of 1974.

6.4.2 The CWP was informed that FAO was studying the possibility of producing a harmonized tabulation of world fishing fleets and a discussion took place on the design of the forms to be completed by the national authorities. The production of such tables by FAO would be complementary to OECD activity and they could be used to check the OECD register. Lastly, it was noted that FAO enquiries would extend to boats of less than 100 GRT which was not the case for the OECD register.

6.5 Ways and means to improve statistics on the actual and potential fishing fleets

6.5.1 The CWP welcomed the results of the OECD activity and also the proposed FAO project, both of which would contribute towards a significant improvement of statistics on actual and potential fishing fleets. It also noted that the OECD project had helped some countries to undertake the same work on a national basis.

6.5.2 Accordingly the CWP recommends:

(i) that the OECD programme of work as described in document CWP-8/6C be continued with a view to presenting, at the next CWP Session, a report containing precise proposals for:

(a) a complete classification of fishing vessel types;

(b) a more complete set of statistical tables, e.g. by age of vessels, sea regions, etc.

(ii) that the form of tabulation of fishing fleets by FAO take into account the existence of national classifications, especially as regards the smaller craft (it was noted that in a number of countries small boats often used a variety of gears and could only be classified a multipurpose);

(iii) that the activity of both OECD and FAO make provision for the computer processing of the data on fleets in past years.

6.6 Review of Classification of Fishing Vessels by Tonnage Size Classes

6.6.1 The CWP expressed the opinion that new proposals presented on p. 14 of CWP-8/6B although logical from the structural viewpoint would be too much in conflict with long established practices in some regions and could not be recommended. It pointed out that the main difference between the new and the presently existing classification was in the proposal for a break at 250 GRT and that specific computer treatments would be able to cope with particular requirements when a register down to 100 GRT became available.

6.6.2 Having once again reviewed the tonnage breakdown at CWP-8/6B, (p.9)[1/], the CWP recommends its adoption by those agencies which have not as yet done so.

1/ This tonnage breakdown is presented at Appendix 6.

6.7 Review of the Definition of the Fishing Effort Concept "Number of Days on Ground"

6.7.1 At the request of the Commissioners of ICNAF, the CWP reviewed the definition of "days on ground" currently used in Atlantic fishery statistics and set forth in Section 1.4 of Part D of FAO Fisheries Circular No. 429 (Notes on International Classifications and Definitions used in Fishing Fleet, Fishing Gear and Fishing Effort Statistics). The definition is there given "... as the number of days (24-hour periods, reckoned from midnight to midnight) in which the craft was on the fishing ground, and includes in addition to the days fishing and searching also all the other days while the craft was on the ground".

6.7.2 In anticipation of these discussions national offices were asked to provide:

(a) the currently used definition as now applied in their national statistics, and

(b) suggestions and comments for definition improvement, if any.

Written comments which were received from Canada, Japan, Portugal, England and Wales, and the United States were presented in document CWP-8/6D; verbal comments were received from Norway. Canada, Norway, Portugal and the United States voiced accord with the current definition; Japan excluded searching time and transit time between fishing grounds while England and Wales proposed excluding only the transit time when compiling "days on ground" statistics.

6.7.3 Ensuing discussions by the CWP concluded that while the use of the statistic, "days on ground" was of limited value for measuring the influence of fishing on stocks in terms of fishing mortality rates, the statistic was of major importance when attempting to manage a fishery on the basis of fishing effort regulations or regimes, the physical presence or absence on a fishing ground being more readily observed than the actual activity of fishing. However, agreement could not be reached on how to treat the time components related to transit between fishing grounds. The term "fishing ground" could take on several meanings when considering ground-fish or pelagic fish species. Moreover, very large stock management areas might require extensive transit operations when migration patterns were pronounced, a condition of limited importance for small stock areas. It was possible, however, that such problems could well be handled on a regional basis, i.e. vessel reporting procedures, vessel characteristics during transit, etc.

6.7.4 Accordingly, it was felt by the CWP that the current definition of "days on ground" as set forth in FAO Fishery Circular No. 429 could be considered as adequate, but that each regional commission should define the concept of "fishing ground" within its own management regime when attempting to collect these statistics for purposes of management on an effort basis.

6.8 Consideration of Fishing Effort Measures by Gear Categories

6.8.1 At its Annual Meeting in 1974, ICNAF requested that the 8th Session of the CWP should discuss the problem of measuring effort in gillnet fisheries. Gillnet fisheries had existed for a long time in the ICNAF area as local fisheries, e.g. for salmon and herring, but had recently also been developed in the international fisheries, e.g. Portuguese dory vessels were now using set gillnets for cod.

6.8.2 There was, therefore, an increasing need for defining a suitable effort unit for such fisheries. In the discussion of the problem the Assistant Executive Secretary of ICNAF pointed out that some countries had asked him for advice on the effort units to be employed not only for gillnet fisheries but also for some other fisheries for which an effort unit had not yet been generally approved. The CWP, therefore, set up a small ad hoc Working Group consisting of representatives of

the agencies present to review and, where necessary and possible, extend the present concepts of effort units in the various fisheries as defined by gear categories. It was, however, also noted, that effort unit by gear category was not necessarily always the most adequate approach to measure fishing effort particularly where a fishery is as complex as bait-boat fishing. For such a fishery, components such as days spent searching for bait, fishing for bait, chumming time, etc. would be important factors which needed to be accounted for when evaluating actual fishing effort.

6.8.3 The ad hoc Working Group listed, for each relevant gear category, a number of effort units which could be used (see Appendix 7). Although this list tended to set up the various options in order of priority, the discussion in the CWP showed that the order of priority varied somewhat between the agencies due to the nature of the various regional fisheries. Also, the agencies, although generally requesting more than one measure of effort for each category, did not necessarily request the same set of measures for each gear category. Each agency collecting statistics should, therefore, in their notes for the completion of the various statistical forms, clearly indicate the measures which they wished recorded. The CWP also recognized that for some gear categories there was a need for further studies to clarify in terms of biological effect (fishing mortality), as well as in terms of practicability, the best effort unit, and recommends that the fishing effort units to be reported in the STATLANT system for each gear category be one or more of the measures listed in Appendix 7 to this report with the understanding that each regional agency collecting statistics clearly indicated in the notes for completion of the STATLANT forms the measures it requested.

7. STATLANT FORMS AND NOTES FOR COMPLETION

(Agenda Item 7)

7.1 Review of Forms used in STATLANT System

7.1.1 The CWP reviewed forms used by Atlantic fishery regional agencies and FAO under the STATLANT programme and noted that provision should be made for introduction of additional information on STATLANT FORM B, particularly with a view to designing a form which would be used for direct punching, i.e. without the reported statistics first having to be transferred to a separate punching document.

7.1.2 With the foregoing in mind the CWP recommends that the existing STATLANT FORM B be modified as presented in Appendix 8, and as detailed below:

(i) Provision should be made for the introduction of:

(a) Identification of Graticular Area
(b) Time period key to permit the reporting of statistics pertaining to periods of less than one month
(c) Codes of regional and international effort units of measure
(d) FAO species codes
(e) Regional agency species code
(f) Coding boxes in each statistical item box which contains a month descriptor in order to accommodate codes to be developed for time period descriptors other than a month

(ii) The heading boxes should

(a) be arranged as follows:

A) YEAR (with '19' pre-printed)
B) TIME PERIOD KEY
C) COUNTRY
D) FISHING GEAR (METHOD)
E) VESSEL TYPE
F) VESSEL SIZE
G) MAIN SPECIES SOUGHT
H) FAO STATISTICAL AREA
I) REGIONAL SUB-AREA, DIVISION, ETC.
J) REGIONAL QUADRANGULAR UNIT AREA
K)
L) SHEET NO ..... OF ..... SHEETS

(b) contain in the bottom part of the row of these boxes a reservation for coding purposes which will be highlighted by colour printing (some agencies might require coding boxes printed in a coloured strip within the confine of each information box) or alternatively a straight coding strip below the row of information boxes.

7.1.3 The CWP also noted that there were differing regional requirements regarding the ordering, content and format of the regional species items to be pre-printed on STATLANT forms. The CWP recommends that FAO produce such regional lists tailored to individual regional needs (e.g. sorted by ICNAF Regional Species Code for the STATLANT 21 series).

7.1.4 The CWP discussed CWP-8/6E which contained proposals to develop a STATLANT form suitable for the reporting of fishing effort and nominal catch data by countries with developing national fishery statistical systems which are unable to provide reliable estimates of total annual effort and corresponding total annual species item catch. While recognizing problems that exist in this respect among emerging regional bodies, the CWP did not feel that it was appropriate at this time to introduce another form into the STATLANT international reporting system. The CWP recommends that FAO develop, outside the STATLANT system, such a form for use within these regional bodies where such a form might be of use.

7.1.5 The CWP was informed that FAO was now developing a computerized version of its STATLANT NS FORM and that it was expected that it would be ready in early 1975 for the collection of 1974 data. The CWP recognized the value of such an approach both from the standpoint of reduced error and increased efficiency.

7.2 Review of Notes for the Completion of STATLANT Forms

The CWP considered documents CWP-8/7B and 8/7C and recommends that the Secretary, in consultation with regional agency secretaries, revise the Notes for the Completion of STATLANT Forms in the light of the modifications to the forms recommended above.

7.3 Procedures for the distribution and collection of STATLANT forms

The CWP reviewed the existing procedures for the distribution and collection of STATLANT forms. It noted that these required an unduly large effort by all the agencies concerned, particularly in having to remind National Offices to submit required data prior to the clearly stated deadlines. It was recognized that very little more could be encompassed by agencies to ensure the more prompt return of completed questionnaires. It was, however, agreed that agencies should strengthen their coordination with one another in this matter of the despatch of questionnaires and the issue of reminders to statistical focal points and other contact points in each country.

8. PROCESSING OF CATCH, EFFORT AND BIOLOGICAL DATA BY FAO AND REGIONAL FISHERY AGENCIES

(Agenda Item 8)

8.1 The CWP reviewed ADP systems development (CWP-8/4I) that had taken place within FAO and noted both the sophistication and flexibility of such systems relating to the integration of catch, effort and biological data.

8.2 The CWP also reviewed ADP systems development that had taken place within ICNAF and noted the ICNAF modular approach to systems design which was leading to a continually expanding integrated data system. The CWP was also pleased to learn of the development and implementation within ICNAF of simulation techniques for the provision of alternative quota ranges.

8.3 The CWP then reviewed ADP systems development taking place within ICSEAF. It noted with pleasure that ICSEAF had developed ADP systems utilizing ICNAF ADP systems as a general model and intended to establish close liaison with FAO in the matter of further systems development.

8.4 The CWP then turned to the ICCAT data handling procedures and noted that ICCAT, while conducting no ADP operations itself, was receiving computer print-outs from national offices and publishing them within an ICCAT standard series.

8.5 The CWP finally reviewed ICES data handling procedures and noted that an ADP Working Group had been set up in 1971; see CWP-8/8A and Supplement. The Group had defined three systems:

(a) An ADP system for handling the catch and effort data which were at present being submitted to ICES on STATLANT forms for publication in the Bulletin Statistique and the Statistical News Letters.

(b) A system for handling other data currently published in the Statistical News Letter.

(c) A system based upon a comprehensive data bank of catch, effort, biological and other relevant data for different species.

The ICES Statistician reported that system (c) had been recommended by the Working Group and that, while no actual processing of ICES data had taken place, the overall general system concepts were being formulated together with code file development. A trial run of the system based on North Sea Herring was presently underway and the ICES Statistician argued the urgent need for the early introduction of computer processing in the production of ICES catch and effort publications.

8.6 As a result of the above reviews the CWP recommends that:

(i) FAO assist regional agencies who so request with the development of:

(a) procedures for making data available in a form where analyses could be undertaken utilizing automatic data processing means;

(b) software necessary for the production, by computer processing, of regional publications containing catch and effort data.

(ii) Where possible STATLANT B data be transmitted to FAO from regional agencies on magnetic computer tape.

8.7 The CWP discussed systems for the publication of biological data which might be open to misinterpretation and recommends that:

(i) the general distribution of biological data be restricted to the issue of data inventories;

(ii) the FAO world-wide data inventory be expanded.

9. STANDARDIZATION OF COUNTRY NOMENCLATURE, SYMBOLS, ACRONYMS AND FOOTNOTES IN FISHERY STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

(Agenda Item 9)

9.1 The Secretary of the CWP referring to document CWP-8/1C reported that rapid progress was being made by the ISO and the UN Statistical Office to complete a multipurpose list of country names, abbreviations, codes, etc. The CWP recommends that the Secretary of the CWP keeps all participating agencies promptly and fully informed of all current developments in this field which have an important bearing on the names, codes and multilingual abbreviations of country names which the various agency secretariats might wish to select for their separate uses.

9.2 The CWP noted that tabular symbols, etc. were being standardized and it was noted that the various agency secretariats were fully aware of the advantages of using these wherever possible.

9.3 The CWP referred to the useful list of acronyms appearing at Appendix 9 of the Report of the Seventh Session and recommends that it be expanded and included in this Report again as Appendix 9.

9.4 It was finally requested that FAO keep all these lists under contuous revision as country code files and acronym code files and that these should be used to expeditiously provide updated computer print-outs which should be promptly distributed to the agencies. By these means all the agencies could be kept fully informed of any revisions and expansions in the country, acronym and symbol lists.

10. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CWP

(Agenda Item 10)

It was decided that a draft report would be sent to participants within one week of the termination of the Session for comment which should, in turn, reach the FAO Secretariat by 31 October 1974. Participants then supplying comment would also indicate the number of copies of the report required by language (English, French, Spanish). Copies of the final report would be mailed to participants as soon as possible.

11. OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING DATE AND PLACE OF NINTH SESSION

(Agenda Item 11)

11.1 The CWP decided that the Report of the Session should include an Appendix listing the recommendations; see Appendix 10.

11.2 The CWP noted that members needed to be kept fully informed on regional statistical activities and recommends that all current CWP members receive all statistical publications of the regional bodies and that any new CWP members also receive such documentation.

11.3 It was noted that the dates of the Eighth Session of CWP were such that attendance by the Assistant Executive Secretary of ICCAT and the other ICCAT participant was not possible for the whole of the Session. It was urged that every effort be made to ensure that future Sessions be arranged so as to ensure that all agencies can be properly represented.

11.4 It was agreed that the Ninth Session of the CWP might most usefully take place during the latter half of 1976. No firm proposal was made as to location but it was noted that the CWP had not met outside Europe since 1963 and that the new accommodation which ICNAF was soon to occupy might provide a possible meeting place.

Appendix 1

ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE FISHERIES (GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE)

Although this meeting is due to the initiative of the OECD rather than the French Government, since Paris has been chosen as the site it is only natural that you should be greeted by the representative of the French fishing authorities. To me this is a most pleasant task, one which I am all the more prepared to fulfil as I quite realize the increasing importance of fishery statistics owing to present international trends, and hence the value of the Working Party's activities.

The fishing industry has come to understand the danger of depleting stocks if fishing activities are not controlled beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Experts throughout the world have long warned against this danger and it now appears to be fully grasped by fishermen, who see their catches dwindling a little more each day. It is the work done by experts, supported by the fishermen's own experience, that has brought about such international awareness; this in turn has resulted in the establishment of new fishery agencies covering ever wider areas and increasing numbers of species, and in a strengthening of the rule-making powers of existing commissions. The line now being taken by these bodies is to adopt quota regulations and restrict time spent fishing.

But before the experts can assess fish stocks and calculate catch levels that will not threaten their survival, and before the commissions can allocate this magnitude among countries on the basis of past performance, statistics of catches by area and species which are as accurate and detailed as possible must be provided. This shows how important fishery statistics are, since it is on these that all such rules must rely; it moreover points to the value of your own work, since the reason you are here is to ensure the co-ordination needed among all international fishing organizations. There is also an invaluable opportunity for you to confront the experience individually acquired by all such organizations and jointly review the problems arising in each as well as ways of solving them.

But the efforts you make on an international scale can only be effective if identical efforts take place at national level, since the statistics you compile are based on data supplied by each separate country and these are the raw material used in your work. I may point out that we in France are fully aware of the importance of this question and that we have already taken considerable steps to deal with it. Five years ago we had a conventional type of organization which was running smoothly but which each year proved increasingly unable to meet new requirements. It was accordingly decided to remodel the entire system rather than merely bring it up to date, by revising landing statistics, establishing nomenclatures and codes for the two hundred species caught by our fishermen, feeding the information into a computer, and promoting the use of automatic data processing at major auctions. As a result of all this work we now have a very accurate knowledge of our fish production. Modern methods were moreover needed to keep abreast of fishing activities: the figures for French deep-sea fishing are now stored in a computer, many of those for coastal fishing are, and next year those for tuna no doubt will be. The computer file for seamen is now operational, and in a few months that for vessels is expected to be. Upon undertaking this task, it proved necessary to redesign the scheme for classifying vessels so that a rational, modern working tool might be obtained; this is now being done for fishing gear.

As soon as present studies in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary for Telecommunications are completed, a further stage in the modernization of our information facilities will be the installation in our larger fishing vessels of equipment which will record fishing data on magnetic tape for direct processing by computer.

Appendix 1 (concluded)

These reforms were begun nearly four years ago, and our intention is to carry progress further. We would be only too happy to join with you in seeing how our national system for collecting data might be additionally improved.

After urging the importance of your duties, it would indeed be remiss of me to keep you any longer from the tasks which lie before you. May I wish you every success and simply express the hope that, despite your doubtless heavy workload, you will find time to enjoy your visit to our capital, and in addition to a feeling of satisfactory accomplishment, return home with pleasant personal memories of your stay in Paris.

Appendix 2

AGENDA: EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CWP

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

   1.1 Opening of session
   1.2 Approval of Agenda Items 1.3 to 1.6
   1.3 Election of Chairman
   1.4 Adoption of Agenda Items 2 - 11
   1.5 Review and adoption of schedule of work
   1.6 Appointment of Rapporteurs

2. AGENCY PROGRAMMES AND PUBLICATIONS PRESENTING ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS

   2.1 FAO statistical programme and publications in general and specifically for the Atlantic and for the GFCM, CARPAS, CECAF and WECAFC
   2.2 ICNAF statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
   2.3 ICES statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
   2.4 ICCAT statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
   2.5 ICSEAF statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
   2.6 The STATLANT Programme under the aegis of the CWP

3. CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF FISHING AREAS OF THE ATLANTIC AND ADJACENT SEAS

   3.1 Review of papers consolidating existing material for each of the major fishing areas in the Atlantic
   3.2 Development of an Atlantic-wide system, within a world framework, of a codification of areas (including small rectangles) for ADP processing of catch and effort data

4. CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF SPECIES ITEMS FOR THE WORLD IN GENERAL AND THE ATLANTIC IN PARTICULAR

   4.1 Improvements needed in the FAO classification of species items reflecting recommendations of regional bodies
   4.2 A review of the FAO classification and its possible modification for particular regions
   4.3 Consideration of a worldwide codification of statistical categories for use in an ADP system

5. COMPLETENESS OF CATCH STATISTICS; DISCARDS; CONVERSION FACTORS

   5.1 Completeness of catch statistics
   5.2 Discards
   5.3 Conversion factors

6. STANDARD CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS FOR FISHING FLEET AND FISHING EFFORT STATISTICS

6.1 Review of the Report on the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear
6.2 Consideration of the utilization of this framework for listing fishing gear in the notes and in the statistics of regional Atlantic fishery commissions, committees and councils
6.3 Consideration of the possibility of showing catch (by principal species) for regions according to principal types of gear
6.4 OECD Fleet Statistics
6.5 Ways and means to improve statistics on the actual and potential fishing fleets
6.6 Review of classification of fishing vessels by tonnage size classes
6.7 Review of the definition of the fishing effort concept "number of days on ground"
6.8 Consideration of fishing effort concepts by gear categories

7. STATLANT FORMS AND NOTES FOR COMPLETION

7.1 Overall review of all forms to be used by Atlantic fishery regional bodies, commissions, committees and councils
7.2 Further proposals for improvement, refinement and standardization of notes for the completion of STATLANT forms
7.3 Review of existing procedures for the distribution and collection of STATLANT forms and proposals for improvement

8. PROCESSING OF CATCH, EFFORT AND BIOLOGICAL DATA BY FAO AND REGIONAL FISHERY AGENCIES

9. STANDARDIZATION OF COUNTRY NOMENCLATURE, SYMBOLS, ACRONYMS AND FOOTNOTES IN FISHERY STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

10. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CWP

11. OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING DATE AND PLACE OF NINTH SESSION OF THE CWP

Appendix 3

LIST OF DOCUMENTS [a]

CWP-8/ No.	FAO Fisheries Circular No.	Title
1A		Prospectus including Provisional Agenda, List of Participants and List of Documents
1B		General Information for Participants Attending Eighth Session of the CWP
1C	FIPS 426	Country Names and Codes for Fishery Statistical Purposes
2A	FIPS 378	Report on FAO Statistical Programme and Publications in General and Specifically for the Atlantic and for the GFCM, CARPAS, CECAF and WECAFC
2B		Report on ICNAF Statistical Programme, Publications and ADP Processing
2C		Report on ICES Statistical Programme, Publications and ADP Processing
2D		Report on ICCAT Statistical Programme, Publications and ADP Processing
2E		Report on ICSEAF Statistical Programme, Publications and ADP Processing
2F		Not issued
2G		Not issued
2H	FIES 381	Reporting of Fishery Statistics by National Offices to International Agencies Concerned with Fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean
3A	FIES 372	A Compendium of Notes on an International Standard Classification of Fishing Areas for Statistical Purposes (First Draft)
3B		Supplementary Notes on the Mediterranean and Black Sea Statistical Area (FAO fishing area 37)
3C		Supplementary Notes on the Western Central Atlantic Statistical Area (FAO fishing area 31)
3D		New Statistical Subarea in Northwest Atlantic
3E		Supplementary Notes on the Northeast Atlantic Statistical Area FAO Fishing Area 27: A description of the ICES Statistical Area (North), Statistical Subareas, Divisions and Subdivisions ICES Statistics Committee C.M. 1974/D:9
3F		Fishing Area Codes for Statistical Purposes ICES Statistics Committee C.M. 1974/D:11
4A	FIPS 421 (Rev.)	List of Aquatic Animal and Plant Species Items (Statistical Categories) Arranged by ISSCAAP Groups

[a] Requests for documents should quote the FAO Fisheries Circular No. when this is given.

Appendix 3 (continued)

CWP-8/ No.	FAO Fisheries Circular No.	Title
4A (Sup.)	FIPS 421 (Rev.2)	FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics: List of Aquatic Animal and Plant Species Items (Statistical Categories) Arranged by ISSCAAP Groups
4B	FIPS 431 (Rev.1)	Northwest Atlantic (Area 21 - ICNAF) and Northeast Atlantic (Area 27 - ICES): Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes
4C	FIPS 451	Western Central Atlantic (Area 31 - WECAFC): Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes
4D	FIPS 461 (Rev.1)	Eastern Central Atlantic (Area 34 - CECAF): Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes
4E	FIPS 471 (Rev.1)	Mediterranean and Black Sea (Area 37 - GFCM): Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes
4F	FIPS 481 (Rev.1)	Southwest Atlantic (Area 41 - CARPAS): Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes
4G	FIPS 491 (Rev.1)	ICSEAF - Southeast Atlantic (Area 47) and Subarea 15.8: Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for Statistical Purposes
4H		Not issued
4I	FIPS 384	Management Information System - World Fisheries
4J	FIPS 379	Proposals for a Revision for the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP)
4K		Species Codes for Statistical Purposes ICES Statistics Committee C.M. 1974/D:12
5A	FIPS 428	"Nominal Catches" and "Landings": Definitions and Notes
6A	FIES 429	Notes on International Classifications and Definitions Used in Fishing Fleet, Fishing Gear and Fishing Effort Statistics
6B	FIPS 612	Report of the Ad hoc FAO/OECD Working Group on Fishing Craft Statistics, June 1974, Rome
6C		Report by OECD of its World Register of Fishing Craft and Related Fleet Tabulations and Classifications
6D	FIPS 377	Notes on the Improvement of the Definition of the Fishing Effort Concept "Number of days on Ground"
6E	FIPS 383	Some notes on STATLANT Forms for Reporting Statistics on Effort and Nominal Catches (STATLANT Form B)
7A		Suggestions for a Regional Bulletin of Fishery Statistics

Appendix 3 (concluded)

CWP-8/ No.	FAO Fisheries Circular No.	Title
7B	FIPS 392	A Compendium of Notes for the Completion of Forms STATLANT 21A, 27A and 47A (Regional Catch Summaries for Fishing Areas 21, 27 and 47)
7C	FIPS 393	Compendium of Notes for the Completion of Forms STATLANT 21B, 27B and 47B (Catch/Effort for Fishing Areas 21, 27 and 47)
7D		ICNAF Proposals for a New Version of the STATLANT B Forms to facilitate ADP Processing and the Revision of the Relevant Notes
7E		ICNAF Procedure for acquiring Statistics on Discards
7F		Suggestions for New Versions of the Fishstat NS, A and B Forms to facilitate ADP Processing and the Revision of the Relevant Notes
8A		Report of the ICES Working Group on the Eventual Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fishery Statistics ICES Statistics Committee C.M. 1974/D:5
8A (Sup.)		ICES ADP Working Group; Trial Run on North Sea Herring Data 1972 Requirements and Design of System
8B		Note on the Need and Methods to Distinguish between Catches from Wild and Cultured Stocks

Appendix 4

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Appendix 5

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ABBREVIATIONS OR CHARACTER CODES FOR SOME OF THE MAJOR AND MINOR ISSCFG* CATEGORIES

Gear Categories	Abbreviations
SURROUNDING NETS	
With purse-lines	PS
one boat	PS1
two boats	PS2
Without purse-lines (lamparas, etc.)	LA
SEINE NETS	
Beach seines	SB
Boat or vessel seines	SV
Danish seines	SDN
Scottish seines	SSC
Pair seines	SPR
TRAWLS	
Bottom trawls	TB
Beam trawls	TBB
Otter trawls	OTB
Pair trawls	PTB
Mid-water trawls	TM
Otter trawls	OTM
Pair trawls	PTM
Otter trawls (not specified)	OT
Pair trawls (not specified)	PT
Other trawls	TX
DREDGES	
Boat dredges	DRB
Hand dredges	DRH
LIFT-NETS	LN
Portable lift-nets	
Boat-installed lift-nets	
Shore-operated stationary lift-nets	
FALLING GEAR	FG
GILL-NETS AND ENTANGLING NETS	
Set nets	GNS
Drift nets	GND
Encircling drive-in nets	GNC

* FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear

Appendix 5 (concluded)

Gear Categories	Abbreviations
TRAPS	
Stationary uncovered pound-nets	FPN
Covered pots and fyke nets	FPF
Covered pots	FPO
Fyke nets	FYK
Stow-nets	FS
Barriers, fences, weirs, corrals, etc.	FWR
Aerial traps	FAR
HOOKS AND LINES	
Hand-lines and pole-lines	LHP
Hand-lines and pole-lines (mechanized)	LHM
Set-lines	LLS
Drift-lines	LLD
Troll-lines	LTL
GRAPPLING AND WOUNDING GEAR	
Harpoons	HAR
HARVESTING MACHINES	
Pumps	HMP
Mechanized dredges	HMD
Other appliances	HMX
MISCELLANEOUS GEAR	
Hand and landing nets	
Drive-in nets, n.e.s.	
Gathering by hand	
Stupefying materials and explosives	
Trained animals	
Electrophysically induced narcosis	
GEAR NOT KNOWN OR NOT SPECIFIED	NK

Appendix 6

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF FISHING VESSELS (ISSCFV)

VESSEL SIZE CLASSES

"DIVISION"				"GROUPS"		
Division Code	Lower Limit GRT	Upper Limit 1/ GRT		Group Code	Lower Limit GRT	Upper Limit 1/ GRT
0	0	0.9	=	01	0	0.9
1	1	24.9		11	1	4.9
				12	5	9.9
				13	10	14.9
				14	15	19.9
				15	20	24.9
2	25	49.9	=	21	25	49.9
3	50	99.9	=	31	50	99.9
4	100	149.9	=	41	100	149.9
5	150	499.9		51	150	199.9
				52	200	249.9
				53	250	299.9
				54	300	349.9
				55	350	399.9
				56	400	449.9
				57	450	499.9
6	500	999.9		61	500	599.9
				62	600	699.9
				63	700	799.9
				64	800	899.9
				65	900	999.9
7	1 000	1 999.9	=	71	1 000	1 999.9
8	2 000	9 999.9		81	2 000	2 999.9
				82	3 000	3 999.9
				83	4 000	4 999.9
				84	5 000	5 999.9
				85	6 000	6 999.9
				86	7 000	7 999.9
				87	8 000	8 999.9
				88	9 000	9 999.9
9	10 000	99 999.9		91	10 000	19 999.9
				92	20 000	29 999.9
				93	30 000	39 999.9
				94	40 000	49 999.9
				95	50 000	99 999.9

1/ ".9" is understood to be recurring.

Appendix 7

PROPOSALS FOR FISHING EFFORT MEASURES BY GEAR CATEGORY

The following are measures of effort for reporting information by gear type (for definition of sets made, days fished, etc. see paragraphs 1.2 to 1.6 in Section D of FAO Fisheries Circular No. 429).

Each agency requesting data on the STATLANT forms will indicate in their instructions for completion of the forms which effort categories they require.

Surrounding nets (purse seines, etc.)

Tuna fisheries:

a. Number of hours spent searching and number of hours spent setting gears
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made
f.1 Number of sets made (whether or not a catch was made)
f.2 Number of successful sets made (i.e. when a catch was made)

Other fisheries:

a. Number of times gear was set or shot (whether or not a catch was made)
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Beach seines:

a. Number of times gear was set or shot (whether or not a catch was made)
b. Number of days fished

Boat seine (Danish seine, etc.):

a.1 Number of hours during which the seine was on the bottom and fishing
a.2 Number of hauls or drags made
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Trawls:

a.1 Number of hours during which the trawl was in the water (mid-water trawl) or on the bottom (bottom trawl) and fishing
a.2 Number of hauls or drags made
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Appendix 7 (continued)

Boat dredges:

a.1 Number of hours fished, i.e. number of hours during which the dredge was on the bottom and fishing
a.2 Number of hauls or drags made
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Lift nets:

a. Number of hauls made
b. Number of days fished

Falling gear:

a. Number of casts

Set gillnets/Draft gillnets:

a. Length of nets expressed in 100-metre units multiplied by number of sets made
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Fixed gillnet*:

a. Length of net expressed in 100-metre units multiplied by number of times the net was cleared
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Stationary uncovered pound nets:

a.
b. Number of days fished times number of units

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* To be added to FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG).

Appendix 7 (concluded)

Fyke nets and pots:

a. Number of lifts times number of pots
b. Number of days fished times number of visits per day
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of days absent from port
e. Number of trips made

Set lines and drift lines (long lines):

a. Thousands of hook fished
b.1 Number of days fished
b.2 Number of sets made
c. Number of days absent from port
d. Number of trips made
e. Number of days on grounds

Hand lines (including pole lines and troll lines):

a. Number of line-days
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days absent
d. Number of trips made

Harpoons

a.
b. Number of days fished
c. Number of days on grounds
d. Number of trips made

Appendix 8

PROPOSALS FOR A MODIFIED STATLANT B FORM[1/]

(a)YEAR	(b)TIME PERIOD	(c) COUNTRY	(d)FISHING GEAR(METHOD)	(e)VESSEL TYPE	(f)VESSEL SIZE	(g)MAIN SPECIES SOUGHT	(h)FAO AREA	(i)SUB-AREA	(j)QUADRANGULAR AREA	(k)SOURCE	(l)
19__										For office use only	Sheet No. __ of __ Sheets

STATLANT(i')B

AGENCY(i)/CWP FORM FOR REPORTING STATISTICS ON FISHING EFFORT AND CORRESPONDING NOMINAL CATCH

FAO CODE	EFFORT/SPECIES ITEMS	AGENCY CODE(i)	TOTAL	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	NOT KNOWN
	FISHING EFFORT MEASURES															
05	HOURS FISHED	E_{ip}														
02	DAYS FISHED	E_{iq}														
03	DAYS ON GROUNDS	E_{ir}														
	NOMINAL CATCH (METRIC TONS)															
	TOTAL															
23/035	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*	S_{il}														
32/113	Atlantic cod *Gadus morhua*	S_{im}														
35/398	Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus*	S_{in}														

1/ The coding reservation can appear either coloured within header boxes or on a continuous strip below the boxes, as preferred by a particular agency.

NOTE: (i) specifies the agency name
(i') is the FAO code for the area in which agency (i) is primarily interested.
E_{ip} is the code of p^{th} effort measure of the i^{th} agency.
S_{il} is the code of l^{th} species item of the i^{th} agency.

Appendix 9

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (formerly known as the "Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area")
STATLANT	(previously STANA) Statistical Programme for Atlantic Fisheries
ACC:SCSA	Administration Committee on Coordination - Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities (UN)
ACMRR	Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (FAO)
BIWS	Bureau of International Whaling Statistics
CARPAS	Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic
CECAF	FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CICAR	Cooperative Investigations of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
CIFA	Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (FAO)
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
EIFAC	European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIPS (FAO)	Fishery Statistics Unit, Department of Fisheries, FAO
GFCM	General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean
IAFMM	International Association of Fish Meal Manufacturers
IASI	Inter-American Statistical Institute
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IBRD	See World Bank below
IBSFC	International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission
ICCAT	International Council for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICNAF	International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries
ICSEAF	International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries
ICSEM	International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea
ICSPRO	Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography

ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ILO	International Labour Office
IMCO	Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization
INPFC	International North Pacific Fisheries Commission
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOFC	Indian Ocean Fishery Commission
IPFC	Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
IPSFC	International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISSCAAP	FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants
ISSCFG	FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear
ISSCFV	FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MCBSF	Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NPFSC	North Pacific Fur Seal Commission
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SAC(ICSEAF)	Scientific Advisory Council, ICSEAF
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SOEC	Statistical Office of the European Communities
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPPC	Permanent Commission for the Conference on Use and Conservation of Marine Resources of the South Pacific
STACREM (ICNAF)	Standing Committee on Regulatory Measures, ICNAF
STACRES (ICNAF)	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, ICNAF
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
Unesco	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNSO	United Nations Statistical Office
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission
World Bank	Previously known as IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Appendix 10

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Rec.	Section	
1	2.6.1	Establishment of inter-agency publication series
2	3.2	Establishment of unit sea area boundaries
3/4	3.3.2	Coding of quadrangular sea areas
5	4.1.1	Publication of regional lists of species items
6	4.1.2	Introduction of term species items
7	4.1.3	Format and contents of regional lists of species items (see Rec.16)
8	4.2	Coding of species items in a world-wide and regional lists
9	5.1.2	Survey of national fishery statistical systems
10	5.3.1	Bulletin of conversion factors
11	6.2	Abbreviations for gear names
12	6.5.2	Improvement of fishing fleet statistics
13	6.6.2	Classification of fishing vessels by GRT
14	6.8.3	Measures of fishing effort
15	7.1.2	Revisions to STATLANT B forms
16	7.1.3	Pre-printing of regional lists of species items on STATLANT B forms (see Rec.7)
17	7.1.4	New form for collecting catch and effort statistics
18	7.2	Notes for completion of STATLANT forms
19	8.6	ADP development
20	8.7	Publication of biological data
21	9.1	Standardisation of nomenclature, symbols, etc.
22	9.3	List of Acronyms
23	11.2	Information on regional fishery statistical activities

MR/F5350/E/2.75/1/1000